

March 11, 1982

LB 628, 631, 669, 669A,
722, 782, 827, 870

SENATOR CLARK PRESIDING

SENATOR CLARK: You will check in, please. Record the presence, please.

CLERK: Quorum present, Mr. President.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Stoney. We have another motion on the bill right now.

CLERK: Mr. President, your Committee on Enrollment and Review respectfully reports they have carefully examined engrossed LB 628 and find the same correctly engrossed; 631, 669, 669A, 722, 782 and 827 all correctly engrossed.

Mr. President, on LB 870, Senator Chambers would move to indefinitely postpone the bill.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I feel that this is a motion that can bring the whole subject of this particular bill to a head. Now one of my major concerns, it should be clear, is the provision about mandatory sentencing, mandatory jail time. I am sending another handout around to you to show you in documentation in the newspapers about the type of overcrowding that is occurring not just around the country but in Nebraska. We have, on the second page the headline says: "Penal complex is sorely overcrowded." This is a statement from the people who run the Penitentiary here. Another statement from Judge Krivosha that there is no evidence that putting people in jail for longer periods of time prevents others from committing crimes. Jail alone is not a way to handle problems. Then for those from Lancaster County and surrounding areas, dangerous overcrowding is jail's worst. Their head of their Department of Corrections has pointed out that they are facing the worst overcrowding in the history of their twelve-year jail. Then the following page talks about a judge in Albuquerque, New Mexico who was faced with the law requiring mandatory sentences. Rather than sentence a young man in accord with the law, this judge stunned everybody in the court room by resigning on the spot from his judgeship, and he had a philosophy of sentencing, a philosophy of justice both of which were violated by the provisions of the mandatory sentencing law, so he resigned on the spot. It shows that people do have convictions, that they will follow them to what some people might consider unreasonable extremes. The next page will tell about a judge in Philadelphia who ordered the release of over a hundred prisoners because of